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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS
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+ LARGER CROPS OF BROMEGRASS, CRESTED-WHEATGRASS, AND BERMUDA-GRASS
SEED WERE HARVESTED THIS YEAR

In contrast with the small seed crops of brome-grass and crested-wheatgrass produced in 1946, production of both of these important dry land grasses is much larger this year, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported today. The first crop of Bermuda-grass seed is the largest in eight years of record.

BROMEGRASS: The brome-grass crop is estimated at 10,820,000 pounds of clean seed. This is $2 \frac{2}{5}$ times as large as last year's crop of 4,510,000 pounds and is almost equal to the 1942-45 average of 11,000,000 pounds. The largest increases are reported for Nebraska, and Kansas where relatively little seed was produced last year. Production in these two States is estimated at 9,200,000 pounds with the bulk of this being in Nebraska where growing conditions were highly favorable for an excellent seed crop. Production in Nebraska is equal to that of the large crop in 1945.

This year's yields per acre were larger than last year in most States. The United States average of 199 pounds per acre is 58 pounds more than last year and 18 pounds more than average. The acreage harvested for seed is estimated at 54,400 acres compared with 32,000 acres last year and the average of 60,650 acres. The largest increases in acreages are reported for Nebraska, Kansas and South Dakota. The acreage harvested for seed in North Dakota is smaller this year because some brome-grass fields were plowed up last spring and planted to flax.

Prices offered growers during the first week of September were \$9.50 per 100 pounds clean seed in Nebraska, and \$10.50 in Kansas. These prices compare with \$15.00 for both States last year and \$12.50 in 1945.

Stocks of old brome-grass seed held by dealers and the Government on June 30, 1947 were 2,050,000 pounds compared with 3,885,000 pounds a year earlier and the 1941-45 average of 2,485,000 pounds.

Imports of brome-grass seed during the 12-month period ending June 30, 1947 totaled 6,401,700 pounds. These imports compare with 8,197,600 pounds a year earlier and with 5,281,300 pounds the 1941-45 average. All imports of brome-grass seed were from Canada.

CRESTED-WHEATGRASS: This year's crop of crested-wheatgrass seed is estimated at 2,640,000 pounds of clean seed. While a crop of this size is nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ larger than last year's small crop of 2,010,000 pounds, it is only 31 percent as large as the 1941-45 average of 8,492,000 pounds. The estimate this year does not include Oregon, Washington, and Idaho where the harvested acreage for seed is less than 500 acres. The larger crop this year is attributed to larger acreage harvested for seed in South Dakota, Nebraska, and Montana, and to larger yields per acre in a majority of the producing States.

The acreage harvested for seed is estimated at 22,800 acres compared with 22,100 acres last year and the average of 77,300 acres. Yields per acre were equal to or larger than last year in all States and the average of

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116 pounds is 25 pounds larger than last year and 10 pounds larger than average.

Prices offered growers ranged from \$10.00 per 100 pounds clean seed in Nebraska to \$12.00 in Montana and North Dakota. The average of \$10.70 this year compares with last year's season average price of \$13.30 and with a season average of \$8.02 in 1945.

Stocks of old crested-wheatgrass seed held by dealers and the Government on June 30, 1947 were only 146,000 pounds -- the smallest on record. This compares with 737,000 pounds a year earlier and with the 1941-45 average of 1,574,000 pounds.

During the 12-month period ending June 30, 1947, a total of 134,600 pounds of crested-wheatgrass seed was imported into the United States compared with 746,100 pounds imported during the corresponding period in 1946 and the average of 980,500 pounds. All imports of crested-wheatgrass seed were from Canada.

BERMUDA-GRASS: Production of the first crop of Bermuda-grass seed in Arizona and in the Blythe, California, section is estimated at 1,200,000 pounds of clean seed. Compared with previous years, this is the largest first crop of Bermuda-grass seed on record back to 1942, and is 50 percent larger than last year's crop of 800,000 pounds and 52 percent larger than the 1942-45 average of 788,750 pounds. On the basis of the last 5 years, the first crop usually represents 63 percent of the annual Bermuda-grass seed production.

Reports are unanimous in indicating that this year's first crop is of excellent quality. Loss in cleaning the seed this year is below average.

Prices received by growers ranged from 27½¢ per pound for early sales to more than 30¢ for recent sales and average 28½¢ per pound. A year ago growers received 26¢ a pound for their first crop. These prices compare with first crop prices of 25¢ in 1945 and 45¢ in 1944.

Stocks of Bermuda-grass seed held by dealers on June 30, 1947 were 105,000 pounds compared with 202,000 pounds (71,000 pounds of this held by the Government) in 1946, and 330,000 pounds (3,000 pounds of this held by the Government) in 1945.

A report on the outcome of this year's second crop of Bermuda-grass seed will be issued on January 15, 1948.

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